

QUESTIONS FOR GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF CONTROL

1. What goals would you like to achieve during your time on the board?
2. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?
3. Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?
4. Under what circumstances would you vote to increase tuition at your school?
5. Do you think your university has done a good job of controlling costs? Where would you find additional cost savings?
6. If Grand Valley State University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient?
7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful? Does your university currently do anything like this?
8. What do you think about basing future state appropriations for universities on some kind of past performance outcome measurement?
9. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?
10. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?
11. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?
12. What is the relationship that your school maintains with its surrounding community?

QUESTIONS FOR GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF CONTROL

Submitted by: Sue C. Carnell

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1. What goals would you like to achieve during your time on the board?
My goal would be to assist the administration and staff in its quest to become an effective and efficient world class higher education institution that provides a quality and meaningful education to students and meets the needs of the changing job market.
2. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?
Due to the proximity of higher institutions to residents across the state, I think there should be some overlap in course offerings to accommodate students who cannot afford to travel and live far from home. However, to avoid duplication of services and to manage cost, universities and colleges should have certain areas of specializations and concentrations unique to the region and/or the needs of the economy.
3. Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?
I support college affordability. And since two-thirds of the jobs today and in the near future will require some higher education, I would hope that universities and community colleges would not set tuition rates above the cost of what students could afford. Increasing tuition could result in denying a student the possibility of successfully competing in the job market.
4. Under what circumstances would you vote to increase tuition at your school?
Normally when faced with such decisions, I gather as much information as possible and make a sound decision. I usually gage the worthiness for programs and services based on their return on investment. I believe that serving on this board would warrant that same type of process and analysis.
5. Do you think your university had done a good job of controlling cost? Where would you find additional cost savings?
In this current economic climate, it is difficult for institutions to control cost, but it is necessary. However, I believe that Grand Valley ranks 14 out of 15 for tuition cost. Just as in my former experiences with controlling cost, I would look at the budget and work to ensure that the institution is operating within its means.
6. If Grand Valley State University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient?

As a board member, I would be interested looking at both the academic and operational sides of the institution. This would include making inquiries regarding the budget and discussing ways to make cuts if GVSU is in a deficit.

Serving in State government for over the last 10 years, has prepared me for strategically looking at ways to balance a budget when faced with declining revenues.

7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful? Does your university currently do anything like this?

There are a number of outcomes a university should measure to determine success. Some of these outcomes include enrollment, degree attainment, and transferability rate. While serving on the board I would analyze what type of outcome measures the university is using to determine success.

As part of the leadership team that developed the Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, I am aware of the 19 recommendations from this report. One of the recommendations urges higher education institutions to "Improve Institutional Completion Measures". As a board member, I would examine how GVSU is addressing this recommendation.

8. What do you think about basing future state appropriations for universities on some kind of past performance outcome measurement?

I believe there should be some accountability for the appropriations given to institutions and that any performance measurement tool is fair and tailored to the individual institution.

9. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?

Charters schools are educating approximately 6% of Michigan's student population. It is critical that any institution authorizing a charter school ensure that the school is effectively and efficiently educating our students. Universities are viable entities to authorize charters and should use their human and fiscal resources to provide support services and monitor their charters.

10. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?

Commercializing research is important in helping to grow the state's economy. While serving on this board I would investigate the role of GVSU in commercializing research projects.

11. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?

I think K-12 institutions are doing a better job of educating our students. Based on the recent increase of MEAP scores it appears that districts and schools are working on the new grade level content standards and high school standards. Districts that work toward the new high school graduation requirements will help students become college ready.

12. What is the relationship that your school maintains with its surrounding community?

According to a Grand Valley's Accountability 2008 report, it ranks number 2 out of 15 for enrolling Michigan residents. With such high numbers of Michigan resident, it is likely that a large number of students come from the surrounding communities. Therefore, I believe that it is important to have a strong relationship with the surrounding communities. In many instances, a thriving higher education institution yeilds benefits to the surrounding communities by providing jobs and resources to the residents.